

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
November 30, 2011 MINUTES

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting November 30, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rory Gilbert, Chair
Denise Heap, Vice Chair
Terry Benelli
Ana Cadillo
Hong Chartrand
Lela Hinds-Peterson
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
James May
Orchidia Peterson
Dean Tun Lin Moe

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Ray Villa

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Rory Gilbert welcomed the newest member of the board, Dean Tun Lin Moe and guests. Rory Gilbert asked the board members to introduce themselves to Mr. Tun Lin Moe. Mr. Tun Lin Moe also introduced himself.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the board.

3. Mesa Police Department Report.

Ray Villa announced that beginning in January, one Police Commander plans to attend future broad meetings on a rotating basis. Mr. Villa also referenced an article of a rise of hate crimes towards Hispanics in Phoenix. However there have not been increased hate crimes in Mesa. Since January of 2011, a total of 6 hate crimes were reported to Mesa police, targeting African-Americans, Asians, those of Jewish descent, and homosexuals. There were no reported cases toward Hispanics in this time period.

Terry Benelli asked Ray Villa whether the Red Mountain police advisory board would begin meeting again. Mr. Villa offered to follow up with Commander Ruhland about when the board would be meeting.

4. Approval of minutes from the October 26, 2011 board meeting.

A motion was made by Terry Benelli to table the approval of the October 26, 2011 minutes because Item No. 5 does not reflect all the discussion made. Ms. Benelli suggested that revisions be made and minutes be approved at the next meeting. Denise Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss and review Mesa City Code Title 2, Chapter 12 which outlines the creation, purpose and functions, and membership of the Human Relations Advisory Board

Terry Benelli expressed concern that the function of the board is to serve as a public forum for citizens' input, and that the board may now be limited as to the amount of public input it could gather. Denise Heap expressed concern about limitations on the work in the community and that the language says that the role is to promote mutual harmony which includes outreach. Rory Gilbert reiterated that it is the board presumes that their work includes providing forums to reach out to the community in a variety of ways, not just in its formal meetings. The strategic plan has been based on that presumption and that the board needs to clarify the intent of the language and how we move forward in the work of the board. It may be the ordinance may need to be changed in order to clarify the language.

Terry Benelli further discussed that she spoke with two councilmembers regarding the Board's role in regards to outreach in the community. It appeared that based on the discussion, one Councilmember does see that board's role as having dialogue in the community. Wayne Manske summarized his

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Neighborhood Services Administration Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona*

discussion with another Councilmember, with regards to immigration issues, and the Mesa Compact, who felt that this was not reflective of Mesa and that the Board should not promote and hold forums on this topic. Terri Benelli asked Ruth Giese about topics of the cinema series, and that if there was an immigration issue, was the Board even allowed to discuss it at the cinema series. Ruth advised she would follow up on that question.

Rory Gilbert asked that the all board members talk with Councilmembers from their district. Terri Benelli offered to speak with Councilmembers Glover if no one lives in District 4. James May advised he would speak with Vice Mayor Somers. Denise Heap advised she was meeting with Councilmember Kavanaugh. Terri Benelli reminded the board that HRAB was asked by Council to review the Mesa Compact. Rory Gilbert reiterated that the Board needs clarity on their roles and expectations, and that the board has the capacity to do more for the community. Ms. Gilbert also stated that she does not want the board to spend time on issues that will be left in a black hole somewhere and that the board needs more than “thanks” after the hard work done on particular issues. The board may need to better close the loop on their recommendations to Council in the future. Rory Gilbert also suggested that the ordinance needs to be clear for future board members so that this question of the board’s role does not reoccur.

6. Discuss, revise and approve 2011/2012 Strategic Plan.

The board reviewed pages 21, 22 and 23 of its 2011/2012 Strategic Plan. James May moved that the board support all three goals as written, and that the actions might change over time. Denise Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the actions items and discussed revisions to the action items. Hong Chartrand asked that action 4 be changed from “immigration” to “diverse populations”. Denise Heap asked that action 7 be revised and that exploring a non-discrimination ordinance be made a separate action, as Action 8. The board also discussed committees to work on the action items. Lela Hinds-Peterson expressed her concerns about adopting action plans that the board might not be able to work on. The board discussed whether to table approval of the action items. Ms. Hinds-Peterson moved to table the action items until the board receives further clarification on its roles and functions. Wayne Manske seconded. Motion did not carry as follows:

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Rory Gilbert	No
Denise Heap	No
Terry Benelli	No
Ana Cadillo	Yes
Hong Chartrand	No
Lela Hinds-Peterson	Yes
Frank Johnson	Yes
Wayne Manske	Yes
James May	No
Dean Tun Lin Moe	No

The board continued its discussion on revisions to the action items. Action 7 would read as “Assess and explore the creation of an anti-harassment ordinance for the City of Mesa.” Action 8 would read as “Assess and explore the creation of an anti-harassment ordinance for the City of Mesa.” James May moved to adopt action items 1 -8 with revisions as noted, and to add 3 new strategies located on pages 22-23, numbered 1 -3. Denise Heap seconded. The motion carried as follows:

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Rory Gilbert	Yes
Denise Heap	Yes
Terry Benelli	Yes

Ana Cadillo	Yes
Hong Chartrand	Yes
Lela Hinds-Peterson	No
Frank Johnson	Yes
Wayne Manske	Yes
James May	Yes
Dean Tun Lin Moe	Yes

7. Discuss, select and approve Ad Hoc Teams and Team Chairs and schedule meetings for 2011/12 year.

Rory Gilbert asked the board to discuss how to formulate teams in order to complete the work in the strategic plan. The board discussed that the Marketing Team finalize the brochure for the next meeting. The board agreed to send comments to Ruth Giese so that the content could be approved in January.

The board also discussed moving forward on Action Item 3 concerning the American with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008. Denise Heap, Dean Tun Lin Moe, Frank Johnson, and James May volunteered to be on the Education Team. James May moved that the Marketing Team finalize the brochure and that Education Team become knowledgeable on Action Item 3 as its first task. Terry Benelli seconded.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Rory Gilbert	Yes
Denise Heap	Yes
Terry Benelli	Yes
Ana Cadillo	Yes
Hong Chartrand	Yes
Lela Hinds-Peterson	Yes
Frank Johnson	Yes
Wayne Manske	Yes
James May	Yes
Dean Tun Lin Moe	Yes

8. Discuss and approve participation in MLK parade to be held on January 16, 2012.

Denise Heap moved the board participate in the MLK parade. Hong Chartrand seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discuss and approve participation in Unity Walk to be held on February 4, 2012.

James May moved that the board participate in the MLK parade. Hong Chartrand seconded. The motion carried unanimously

10. Hear report on Police Department's Community Advisory Boards meeting held on November 7th from those Board members who attended.

Denise Heap summarized the meeting, groups had the opportunity to respond to specific questions and share their ideas for outreach to specific segments of the community.

11. Hear report on Regional HRC meeting held on November 14th from those Board members who attended.

Frank Johnson reported on the November 14th meeting, it was well attended and provided the board a chance to discuss issues and concerns with their colleagues in other cities and he found that all cities share many of the same struggles. James May reported that he provided a summary of the HRAB's

process that it took with the Mesa Compact at the meeting. There was also a presentation of cultural communication presented by a Scottsdale Board member that might be valuable to move the HRAB's work forward. Mr. May noted that becoming knowledgeable of best practices of the cities' human relations commissions is also valuable.

12. Discuss, revise and approve Human Relations Advisory Board brochure.

The Board previously discussed this topic in Item 7.

13. Diversity Administrator's Report:

Ruth Giese provided information about the upcoming Community Cinema Series, which will be held each month from November to May at the Mesa Arts Center. Ms. Giese also invited the board to attend the MLK banquet that will be held on January 14th.

14. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

Rory Gilbert announced the Diversity Leadership Alliance will hold a workshop on December 15, 2011. Terry Benelli announced that she was asked by the Flinn Foundation to speak on immigration.

15. Adjourn.

Rory Gilbert thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Submitted By:

Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator